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Dr. MUSGRAVE's

R E P L Y, &c.



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REPORT

ON THE

PROGRESS OF

Dr. MUSGRAVE's

R E P L Y

T O A

L E T T E R

Published in the

NEWS PAPERS

BY THE

CHEVALIER D'EON.

*Quale per incertam Lunam sub luce maligna
Est iter in sylvis ———*

VIRG.

L O N D O N.

Printed for the Benefit of the Charity-School, at Plymouth, and
Sold by J. Wilkie, N^o. 71. in St Paul's-Church-Yard.

M,DCC,LXIX. —

DR. MUSE GRAVE'S

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March 19, 1951

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A O T

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M. B. C. L. N. K.



A

R E P L Y

TO THE

CHEV. D'EON'S

LETTER, &c.

I SHOULD not have thought it necessary to have replied to the *Chevalier d'Eon*, notwithstanding his formal denial of the overtures referred to by me, if he had not, at the same time, insinuated, that he had once before given a direct contradiction to this report: which, if true, would demonstrate, that I had dealt insincerely with the public, by reviving a story, already disavowed. On the contrary, if it never was disavowed, but rather admitted to be true, the *Chevalier* will stand convicted of great

B

disingenuity,



2 A R E P L Y T O

difingenuity, and must not always expect to be believed, even when he speaks plain. The fact is thus:

In the month of *September*, 1766, about four months after my being settled at *Exeter*, I ordered the following advertisement to be inserted in the *St. James's Evening Chronicle*, by way of challenge to all parties concerned to contradict it, reserving to myself the option of executing or not executing what I announced, according as I should see occasion:

PREPARING *for the* PRESS,

And in due Time will be Published.

DEDICATED to the PARLIAMENT.

I N T E R E S T I N G papers relating to the peace, containing, 1. Narrative of intelligence received at Paris. 2. Copy of a letter to Lord Hertford, dated Jan. 30, 1765. 3. Copy of his Lordship's answer, dated April 7, 1765. 4. Copy of a second letter to Lord Hertford, dated April 16, 1765. 5. Copy of
his

his lordship's second answer, dated May 1, 1765. N. B. The above five papers having been laid before Dr. Blackstone, were, by his advice, delivered to Lord Halifax, May 10, 1765. 6. Substance of a paper delivered to Lord Halifax at a second conference, May 14, 1765. 7. Account of what passed at a second conference, May 14, 1765. 8. Account of a third conference with Lord Halifax, May 18, 1765. 9. Account of the conference with the right honourable the Speaker of the house of commons, April 24, 1766. 10. Account of the Chevalier d'Eon's overtures to impeach three persons by name of selling the peace to the French. 11. Account of the bill of indictment found against a great foreigner, for a conspiracy to assassinate the Chevalier d'Eon. 12. Account of the *noli prosequi*, granted to stop proceedings against the said foreigner. 13. Account of the attempt made to seize the person and papers of the Chevalier d'Eon, the 20th of November, 1764, by a warrant from the then ministry. 14. Account of the pension granted to Count Viri, for his services in making the peace. 15. Extract of a letter from the Duke de Nivernois, to the Duke de Praslin, dated at London, February 20, 1763.

4 A R E P L Y T O

To this challenge, though repeated three times, no other answer was made than what is contained in the following letter, printed in the *St. James's Chronicle*, some few posts after, in *French* and *English*.

“ A l'Auteur du *Chronique de St. James*,

“ MONSIEUR,

“ *J'* AI lu avec beaucoup de surprise dans votre
 “ gazette du *Chronique de St. James* du 7 Oct.
 “ 1766, Cro. 874. l'annonce d'un ouvrage que l'on
 “ dit être sous presse et dédié au parlement ; contenant
 “ en autres pieces extraordinaires des ouvertures
 “ SUPPOSEES du chevalier d'Eon, pour accu-
 “ ser trois personnes par noms, d'avoir vendu la
 “ dernière paix a la France, & differens autres pa-
 “ piers de cette nature.

“ Si j'en étois l'auteur, je ne'aurois pas au moins
 “ l'impertinence, ni le dedier au parlement, ni d'insérer,
 “ comme on le fait, dans le dit avertissement des noms
 “ si respectables.

“ Je

" Je vous declare, Monsieur, ainsi qu'au public,
 " sur mon honneur que je n'ai aucune part, ni directe,
 " ni indirecte, a l'impression d'un tel ouvrage, ni a tous
 " les autres que l'on pourroit publier sous mon nom,
 " ou de façon a faire entendre, que j'y eusse, ou puisse
 " avoir quelque part.

" Pour donner toute l'authenticité possible a une de-
 " claration, je vous prie instamment de l'imprimer en
 " François & en Anglois dans votre gazette.

" Je suis, Monsieur,

" Votre très humble,

" Et tres obeissant serviteur,

" A YORK,
 " Le 18 Oct. 1766."

" LE CHEV. D'EON.

" To

“ To the AUTHOR of the *St. James's*
 “ *Chronicle,*

“ S I R,

“ I HAVE seen, with much surprise, in
 “ your paper of the 7th instant, an ad-
 “ vertisement of a work, said to be prepar-
 “ ing for the press, dedicated to the parlia-
 “ ment, containing, amongst other extraor-
 “ dinary pieces, an account of the *Cbevalier*
 “ *d'Eon's* overtures, to impeach three per-
 “ sons, by name, of selling the peace to the
 “ *French*, and other papers of that nature.

“ If I had been the author, I should not
 “ have had the impertinence to have dedicat-
 “ ed them to the parliament; nor to have
 “ inserted names so respectable as those in
 “ the said advertisement.

“ I declare

THE CHEV. D'EON. 7

" I declare to you, Sir, as well as to the
" public, upon my honour, that I have no
" concern, directly, or indirectly, in the im-
" pression of any such work ; nor in any other
" which may be published under my name,
" or in any way insinuating that I have had,
" or will have any concern therein. And to
" authenticate, as much as possible, this, my
" declaration, I beg you will immediately
" print the above in your paper.

" *I am Sir,*

" *Your humble Servant,*

" *York,*
" *Oct. 18, 1766."*

" LE CHEV. D'EON.

I submit it to the judgment of the public,
whether in either of these letters, there is any
contradiction to the account of the *Chevalier*
d'Eon's having made overtures to impeach
three persons by name, of selling the peace
to

3 A R E P L Y T O

to the *French*. The utmost that can be collected from them is, that the *Chevalier d'Eon* was not privy to the announced publication, and had no concern in it.

It is very observable, that in the *French* letter the *Chevalier d'Eon* uses the expression *ouvertures supposées*. The word *supposer* in *French* has two meanings. It signifies, either precisely what the word *suppose* does in *English*, and it also signifies *to forge, to counterfeit, to pretend falsely*. Had the *English* letter been an exact translation of the *French*, this ambiguity must have been explained. But it so happens, that in the translation there is no word answering to the word *supposées*, and consequently we are left at a loss, whether we ought to understand it in the former sense, or the latter.

Is it not evident from hence, that the *Chevalier d'Eon's* abhorrence of calumny, was not so quick and lively in the year 1766, as
it

it is become in in the year 1769? How, otherwise, can we account for his absolute silence, or, at least, studied ambiguity, with respect to the main point, whether such overtures had ever been made? Must we say, that the *Chevalier d'Eon* at that time did not know, or had not determined in his own mind, whether he *had* made such overtures or no, and that he waited for some future event to turn the ballance?

I leave the reader to make his own remarks upon the correction which the *Chevalier d'Eon*, so famous for his respectful behaviour to his superiors, is pleased to give me, for barely mentioning the names of five or six great men, as well as for my declared intention of dedicating to the parliament a work, the subject of which, was solely and inherently cognizable by parliament. It is of more importance to point out to him another very mate-

rial and striking difference between the year 1766, and the year 1769.

It is well known that, for some years after the *Chevalier d'Eon* was divested of his ministerial character, he was obliged to disguise himself, to conceal his abode, and had, or pretended to have, continual apprehensions of being murdered, or carried off by force. Within a year or two last past he has appeared publicly, has passed by his own name, has made one, if not more excursions into *Cornwall*; in one of which he was pointed out to me, as he was passing through the streets of *Plymouth*. Happy man! to have found out the secret of pacifying the *French* court, after insulting their ambassador, reviling their country, and publishing a part of those dispatches, of which he is now, forsooth, the conscientious depositary. Did their resentment for those freedoms die with the *Count de Guerchy*? Or did he make his atonement by a handsome present, since they, it seems, and not the

the *English* ministry, may be reasonably suspected of corruption?

Shall we desire the *Chevalier d'Eon* to account for these very different appearances, or shall we rather take the account given in the following letter, which appeared in the *St. James's Chronicle*, December 17, 1767.

To the P R I N T E R,

“ S I R,

“ **E** V E R Y true friend to liberty, and to
 “ the peace and happiness of mankind
 “ in general, should, I think, rejoice and feel
 “ a sensible pleasure to see the affair of the
 “ *Chevalier d'Eon*, which was once so near ter-
 “ minating in *blood and violence*, now in a way,
 “ or likely to be so soon, of ending to his
 “ honour and advantage, as well as to that
 “ of both nations.

“ This I collect from some public and private intelligence, as also from the article from Paris lately in the papers, giving an account that his *valet de chambre*, who had been near three years confined in the *Bastille* on his master's account, was lately discharged from thence by the order of the *Duke de Choiseul*, prime minister, with a gratification of *fifteen thousand livres* !

“ Great and uncommon as this recompense may appear, *the fact* I am, nevertheless, well informed *is true* ; nay farther, that he has since been made an Exempt des *Mari-chaux de France* ; and, therefore, I think such an act of justice and generosity not less honorable to the French nation in general, than to the *Duke de Choiseul* in particular, who thus nobly recompensed the long captivity of this faithful servant to his master.

“ After

“ After performing this act of justice and
 “ liberality to the servant, no doubt but the
 “ like and more will be soon extended towards
 “ the master; who, though perhaps, like
 “ other mortals, if not quite perfection, yet
 “ appears of a very great and amiable charac-
 “ ter.

“ Those, indeed, who have *fully* attended
 “ to the *whole* of his very hard case, and judge
 “ candidly, think he was basely used and
 “ grievously wronged; previous much to
 “ what some deem the exceptionable part of
 “ his conduct, and therein not at all, or so
 “ much to blame, being founded on the first
 “ principle of nature, *viz. self-defence*, and those
 “ of *law*, if not of this country, at least of
 “ those abroad.

“ But as he greatly therein supported him-
 “ self under the most *trying circumstances* man
 “ ever underwent, and his virtues, like pure
 “ gold in the furnace, after standing this
 “ strong

" strong test, have turned out only the bright-
 " er. He cannot, therefore, but be an object
 " of respect and esteem, if not of higher con-
 " sideration, even to *those*, who, for *political*
 " reasons, and, for a *while*, have *seemed* dis-
 " pleased with his firmness and resolution.

" Providence has, no doubt, after this great
 " trial, at length, interposed in his favour,
 " so as to remove the *great obstacle* to a tho-
 " rough and *open* reconciliation with his *su-*
 " *periors*! Every generous and candid mind
 " will, therefore, wish and hope a due sense
 " of its awful dispensation in this respect, and
 " awaken *their* attention thoroughly, so as to
 " co-operate and restore him, if not to his
 " former favour and station; at least, to that
 " *justice* which appears so evidently his due for
 " his great and faithful services.

" In return, it is said, the papers remain-
 " ing with him relating to the peace, are rea-
 " dy to be delivered up entire, *unsullied* by the
 " least

" least view or inspection of any one but him-
 " self. A matter of that importance should
 " not, perhaps, be delayed a moment, as ac-
 " cidents may happen, which might make
 " such delay of great prejudice to both na-
 " tions.

" What pity, instead of doing such justice
 " long ago, and receiving then those *papers*,
 " as was offered on the most reasonable and
 " equitable terms; horrible machinations were
 " formed to *seize* them by *violence*; a gang
 " of *desperadoes* was imported here into this
 " land of liberty for that purpose, headed by
 " a well-known chief of *intriguing* and wily
 " renown, with intent to destroy, or carry off
 " the Chevalier by force (of which, very am-
 " ple evidence, it is said, is in hand.) But
 " the same great and most gracious power
 " that so apparently has delivered him of the
 " *great director* of such unwarrantable schemes,
 " surely then at such hours of severe trial as-
 " sisted

“ sifted him with an amazing firmness and un-
 “ heard-of spirit and constancy, so as to pre-
 “ serve him and frustrate all their wicked de-
 “ signs; and, finally, make the author a vic-
 “ tim * of his own apparent iniquity, to the
 “ peace and happiness, perhaps, of both na-
 “ tions, as well as to the now-appearing last-
 “ ing honour and advantage of the survivor.

“ For had the execution of such diabolical
 “ schemes and contrivances taken place; had
 “ this gang of desperadoes (in number, it is
 “ said, twenty-five) with their daring chief
 “ (who were, as appears, hired, brought
 “ over, and entertained here at great expence,
 “ and appeared under various disguises about

* What can this mean? Not, surely, that
Guerchy, who died immediately after his return,
 was put to death by the court of *France*, as a pre-
 liminary sacrifice to the resentment of the *Chevalier*
d'Eon, before this latter would consent to deliver
 up his papers.

“ this

" this town) had they, as it seems was intend-
 " ed, surrounded, seized, gagged, and mus-
 " fled him, and in that condition put him in
 " a kind of fish machine (made on purpose)
 " in order to drive him to the river side,
 " where a barge was to be ready to convey
 " him on board a ship in waiting on the coast
 " of Suffex, in order to transport him to that
 " of France; there probably, not to receive
 " the reward of his faithful services, and dis-
 " bursements in his country's cause, but, per-
 " haps, to fall a sacrifice to pride, rage, and
 " revenge, or suffer the punishment due to
 " those, who, instead of doing such justice,
 " thus designed violence to the laws of nations,
 " and in fact, did poison, and also bribe and
 " endeavour to persuade others to assassinate
 " him.

" Had so bold, so daring, so flagitious a
 " plan been executed here, each individual
 " must have trembled for his own personal

D

" liberty

" liberty and security, not only in this happy
 " island, but every where else on the face of
 " the globe. Such a desperate action must
 " have been deemed the highest affront, not
 " only to the laws of this realm, but to every
 " other, " As a direct attack of territorial
 " rights," and an infringement of the laws
 " of nations.

" This I may safely affirm was the senti-
 " ment of a very great minister of state on
 " being acquainted with such design, who, it
 " appears, further declared, " If such at-
 " tempt was made, it would interest all so-
 " vereign dignity, and the authority of all go-
 " vernments, as well as the particular laws
 " and liberties of the British nation."

" Happy, therefore, this daring design was
 " thus disappointed by the Chevalier's firm-
 " ness and address, or it might have proved
 " of very fatal consequence. As great events
 " often

“ often proceed from little causes, so might
 “ the destructive flame of war been re-kind-
 “ led * from so small a spark as this seeming
 “ trifling difference between two ministers;
 “ not then of war, but of peace.

“ Happy again, that such unjustifiable de-
 “ signs proved abortive, and that justice at
 “ length will, in this respect, take place of
 “ blood and violence; and that from due con-
 “ sideration of the whole, we may now hope
 “ to see soon one instance more of ample re-
 “ paration made to long and much injured
 “ virtue and merit.

“ These, surely, are the sentiments of all
 “ honest and candid Britons, such as are well
 “ informed and have duly considered every

* Indeed? The war re-kindled? Does not this
 give a high idea of the importance of these papers,
 that the *French* should run the hazard of re-kindling
 the war for the sake of recovering of them?

"circumstance of this very long and extraor-
 "dinary case, and are in any wise lovers of
 "truth, justice, and merit, or sincere friends to
 "the peace and happiness of mankind in ge-
 "neral.

"I am, S I R,

"Your most humble servant,

to Soho, Dec. 12.

"CANDIDUS*."

May I be permitted to ask the *Chevalier*
 whether all the circumstances mentioned in
 this letter are true? that the *French* first pur-
 sued him with such inveterate hatred, and set
 so many engines at work to apprehend him?

* This gentleman, whoever he be, seems to write
 from a good heart, and therefore, I hope, he will
 now stand forth, and produce some of those private
 informations he mentions.

but

but afterwards, when, like the *Beaver*, he dropped his bag before the hunters, they were all at once reconciled to him, and not only released, but rewarded and provided for, his servant? What reward the *Chevalier* himself might have, and whether from *France*, or from the *Privy Purse* in *England*, I am not *absolutely* warranted to say. But I hope the *Chevalier* will gratify my curiosity, by telling me, what the contents of this bag were, that *could* make it so valuable.

When the *Chevalier d'Eon* has cleared up these particulars, which, no doubt, he will do with very little trouble, I will then intreat him to cast an eye upon the following passages, and bestow a part of his leisure in giving me a solution of them: they are, it is true, but but scraps and orts, though still sufficient to make the public regret that fuller meal of which it is unfortunately deprived.

In

In a pamphlet published by the *Sieur Goudart*, by the express order and command of the *Count de Guerchy**, the *Chevalier d'Eon* is charged with indiscretion for the following reasons :

“ *Dans l'état présent de l'Europe petites choses decouvrent les grandes †.*”

In ENGLISH thus:

“ In the present state of Europe the smaller things are a key to unriddle the greater.”

I should be glad to know, what these great things were, that remained to be carried on

* See Dupré's affidavit in the *Suite des négociations particulières du Chevalier d'Eon*, p. 85.

† *Pieces relatives aux lettres & mémoires du Chevalier d'Eon*, à Londres, 1764, p. 126.

after

after the conclusion of the peace, and which it was necessary to conceal so anxiously, that it became a crime in *d'Eon* to drop the least hint of them.

The *French* author goes on: "*Entre deux nations rivales, qui se tatent continuellement, les minuties servent a percer le voile de la politique, & le ministre qui en ote un coin se rend aussi coupable que celui qui le déchire en entier.*"

IN ENGLISH.

"Between two rival nations, that are continually founding one another, even *minutiae* serve to pierce the veil of policy, and the minister who takes away a corner of it, renders himself as blameable, as he who tears it from one end to the other."

In the name of wonder what can this veil of policy mean? Not surely those avowable transactions,

transactions, which pass through the common channel of business, and are freely debated by the great officers of state. There must be something of a different nature behind, to make those veils and curtains and concealments necessary.

Further: in a letter written by one of the friends of *Monsieur d'Eon*, it is said of *Monsieur l'Escallier*: “ *Il est publiquement démontré que si l'on offroit cent guinées au premier secrétaire de Monsieur de Guerchy, il vendroit le secret de l'ambassade.* *”

IN ENGLISH :

“ It is publicly demonstrated that, if a hundred guineas were offered to the first secretary of the *Count de Guerchy*, he would sell the secret of the embassy.”

* *Pieces relatives*, p. 144.

The *secret* of an embassy from one enemy or rival to another, can, in my apprehension, be nothing but treachery. What regards their common advantage, is not worth keeping with so much secrecy.

To assist the reader in construing these dark mysterious expressions, I will now lay before him some extracts from the letters and dispatches of the *Duke de Nivernois*: which extracts I presume to be the same that drew upon the *Chevalier d'Eon*, the censure of indiscretion above-mentioned.

The *Duke de Nivernois*, in a letter dated Feb. 20, 1763, writes to the *Duke de Praslin*, as follows *:

* This and the two following quotations are taken from the *Chevalier d'Eon's* quarto volume, which, not having by me, I cannot refer to the pages.

E

"*Tout*

“ *Tout autre donneroit de l'inquietude. M.*
 “ *Bute l'a pris en amitié, & a très bonne opi-*
 “ *nion de lui, ce qui n'est pas peu dire. Cela ne*
 “ *se trouve pas dans le pas d'un cheval, & qui-*
 “ *conque vicndroit, manqueroit probablement cet-*
 “ *te trouvaille: Les affaires iront ainsi une te-*
 “ *nore: Les personnes n'auront pas la crainte*
 “ *de trouver à dechanter, ainsi point d'ombrage,*
 “ *& tout ira aussi bien, que la nature des choses*
 “ *& du país le comportent.*

This passage is so curious, that I should not do it justice, if I did not remark upon it paragraph by paragraph:

“ Every other” (but d'Eon) “ would give
 “ uneasiness.” Uneasiness? to whom? Can
 it be a matter of uneasiness to an honest *Eng-*
lish nobleman, whether this Marquis or that
 Chevalier is Minister Plenipotentiary in *Eng-*
land? It may, indeed, be matter of prefer-
 ence, because one Minister may be more trac-
 table

table and candid than another. But uneasiness surely can only arise from guilt, and from the apprehension, that the new Minister may be less discreet and cautious, than the old one.

“Lord *Bute* has taken a liking to him, which is saying a good deal. This is an advantage not to be found at every step a horse makes, and whoever should come, would, probably, want this piece of luck.”

It FOLLOWS:

“Affairs will thus go on *uno tenore*.” The *Duke de Nivernois* was pretty right in his prediction. Affairs have gone on *uno tenore* almost ever since.

“*The persons* will not be afraid of being obliged to sing backwards.” Here I hope the *Duke* is mistaken, and that we shall,

sooner or later, find some way of making them sing backwards.

“ Thus there will be no umbrage.” *Umbrage* in *French* does not signify, a pet, or fit of ill humour, but distrust. It may be applied here either to the persons unknown, or else to the public,

“ And every thing will go on as well as the nature of the business and of the country will admit of.” When I find a *French* minister talking in this strain, that every thing will go on very well for them, it raises my curiosity to know how he could foresee it, and what it alludes to; whether it be the imposition of the Cyder-tax; or the wilfully and wantonly embroiling us with *America*, upon a matter of mere punctilio; or the restoring the sons of the rebel lords to their estates in

Scotland

Scotland, under colour of an auction*; or whether it relates to any plot for giving up our forts to the *French* in *America*, for which Major *Rogers* was lately tried, and, after a fashion, acquitted; or lastly, to the reviving a quarrel of a hundred years old against the *Dutch*, at a time when we expect to be attacked by *France* and *Spain*. Whatever it be, whether one or all of these, it is plain that something was in agitation, which could not go on glibly, from the very nature of the country.

This man of gaiety and humour, this *Duke de Nivernois*, does not perfectly suit my fancy, notwithstanding my own love of cheerfulness and society. For a man who is machinating the ruin of a whole nation, to attend their

* I remember to have read such an account in a News-Paper, the very date of which I have now forgot. I hope for the indulgence of the reader, if it should happen not to be exactly true.

parties of pleasure, and join in their merriment, has something a little inconsistent in it, and is, as Mr. *Wollaston* would call it, a practical lye. What pity he could not, for a time, adopt a fullness and gloom more suitable to his business, instead of that open look and winning smile he is commonly said to have? But the employment of his private hours plainly points out the source of his mirth. We find him there hugging and applauding himself at the train he has laid, which, though, from the nature of the country, it may require some time, will, in the end, effectually do our business. The *Duke de Praslin* is certainly a better man, who appears to feel some compunction for the part he is acting. Compunction in a *French* minister is so rare a thing, that I hope the reader will make great deductions from his faults on that account. His words are these in a letter to *M. de Nivernois*, dated *Paris, April 16, 1763*.

“ Il est bien vrai que nous faisons tous deux
 “ un metier qui ne nous convient pas : Vous en
 “ serez bientôt dehors & je serois bien content,
 “ si j’avois la même perspective.”

IN ENGLISH :

“ It is very true, that we are both of us
 “ practising a trade that we ought to be
 “ ashamed of. You will very soon be ought
 “ of it, and I assure you that I should be very
 “ glad, if I had the same prospect.”

“ The *Duke de Nivernois* is indeed quite intolerable. He is continually regaling himself with the delicious prospect of what will one day happen. So in his letter of *May 12, 1763.*

“ *Mon petit Boucher, qui vous porte ceci, est*
 “ *un bien joli sujet ; si vous en avez le tems, par-*
 “ *lez lui un peu de l’Angleterre, & vous verrez*
 “ *qu’il*

“ qu'il n'a pas perdu son tems : En verité je crois
 “ que cette ambassade Angloise profitera beau-
 “ coup UN JOUR a votre departement.

IN ENGLISH:

“ My little Boucher, who brings this, is
 “ quite a clever fellow. If you have the
 “ time, talk to him a little about *England*, and
 “ you will find that he has not thrown away
 “ his time. I verily do believe that this *Eng-*
 “ *lish* Embassy will, ONE DAY OR OTHER, be
 “ of great advantage to your department.”

So much for the *Duke de Nivernois*. I may
 be thought, perhaps, to lay too hard a task
 upon *Monsieur d'Eon*, in desiring him to ex-
 plain another man's meaning, but he can cer-
 tainly have no objection to explaining his own.
 At the end of one of the divisions of his book,
 there is a page printed all in capitals, in
 which he says something to the following
 effect: (I have not transcribed this part, and
 therefore

therefore may quote it incorrectly) "If the
 " authors of my persecution are provoked by
 " what I have here printed, and continue to
 " persecute me, I will publish another com-
 " plete edition, without any the least hiatus or
 " blank." *Ce sera un texte aussi pur que la*
Genese, ou il n'y aura pas les pointes des Maso-
retes. "It shall be a text as pure as Genesis,
 " where there shall not be even the points of
 " the Masoretes *."

Every body must see this to be a menace,
 and will be curious to know what it relates to.
 I will not, after *Monsieur d'Eon's* late perform-
 ance, distress him by asking this question, but
 shall be contented with only knowing against
 whom it was directed. Was it not against the
English Ministry? No, I forget myself. The

* Compare this, and, indeed, the whole pub-
 lication, with the Chevalier's late protestations
 of his fidelity to his employers.

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then *English* Ministry were all honourable men, they had inspired *Monsieur d'Eon* with the justest veneration, and therefore it can be only against the *French* Ministry, that he levels his thunders.

I have a much better title to ask *Monsieur d'Eon* all these questions, than he can possibly have to ask me the name of the person, who carried the messages to *Sir George Yonge*, and *Mr. Fitzberbert*; a thing which I never knew, nor ever pretended to know. I presume, indeed, this was the very reason, why he chose to address himself to me, instead of applying to *Sir George Yonge* at the Admiralty office, not half a mile from his own house, where he would probably have had as much information as he desired, and perhaps more.

The *Chevalier* never said a truer word, than that he cannot possibly be of any use to me in support of *my* charge. I never indeed apprehended

prehended that he could, because *my* charge is *only* against *Lord Halifax*, which, happily for me, does not depend upon his testimony.

But, I will go further and say, that he cannot possibly be of any use, not only to me, but to any man in the kingdom. And therefore, I know of nothing better to be done, than, wherever his papers are, to send him after them.

With our own countrymen we cannot so easily part. Not that I apprehend they have any immediate designs of leaving us. Their arrangements are seemingly too well taken and the positive public declaration of the *Chevalier d'Eon*, is enough to inspire them with confidence, though ever so criminal. But time and change of circumstances make an alteration in the sentiments of private men, as well as in those of a nation. For instance, there are few people who would not, six months ago, have rejoiced at hearing that some cer-

tain individuals had taken a final leave of their country, whereas now there is nothing contemplated with greater pleasure, than their being resident among us. The public now, instead of building a bridge, or making a road for them, would hang about their necks to detain them; and should they go away without taking leave, the incivility would be greatly complained of, though they should generously avoid putting the nation to any trouble or expence, in conveying them beyond sea. If the public are thus changeable, is there any cruelty in supposing our great men may be equally so? Especially since we find, that they are in no hurry to vindicate their characters, and that the meeting of parliament is actually put off, till the nights are almost at the longest.

After all: if these important papers are thus irrecoverably lost, what satisfaction can the nation have for its most material injuries?

This

This question will, I doubt not, occur to every lover of his country, and therefore I will take the liberty, notwithstanding my being a little obscure practitioner in the country, of chalking out one scheme, to which, I think, no reasonable or equitable objection can be made. The proposal, I hope, will be thought excusable, at a time when the creatures of power tell us with a sort of insolent triumph, that *the inquiry is defeated*, that *nothing can now be done*; and openly rejoice, not that their patrons are innocent, but merely, that they are safe.

It is well known, in how precipitate a manner, the preliminaries of the peace were approved by the late house of Commons; that the articles were not suffered to be debated one by one, notwithstanding the great variety of matter that each of them afforded for discussion, and the evident impossibility, that country gentlemen, or indeed any gentlemen, could be previously acquainted with the several

ral ties, dependencies, and relations of so many distant states and colonies. Instead of this candid and sober method, strongly contended for by the minority, the house cut short all deliberation, and voted an immediate approbation of the terms. What reason then can be alledged, why so precipitate a vote, carried by a majority that shut their ears against argument, should not immediately be rescinded? After which the merits of the peace may be again brought upon the carpet, as new matter, not yet prejudged by parliament.

For the rescinding it, there is this further plea, that since that time reasonable ground has appeared to imagine, that, however, the vote was procured, the vitals of government, the very sources of our political life were at that time poisoned. It appears probable too, that formal proof of this was once offered and rejected; and that afterwards, the evidences and documents appealed to, in confirmation
of

of it, having been in vain attempted by force, were surrendered by agreement. Is it possible for treason to smell ranker than this? And shall we suffer suspected persons to be protected in these circumstances by an act of their own contrivance and suggestion? Shall the vote of approbation continue to operate in their favour, and shall the manifold grounds of suspicion that have arisen since, have no operation against them?

I know there are people of a desponding character, so terrified at the supposed influence of the crown, and so disgusted at some late transactions, as to take it for granted, the parliament will pass any vote a favourite shall dictate. But I, for my own part, am far from entertaining any such idea. Great bodies of men may, and always will, have some obliquities in their conduct, but I will never believe, till experience convinces me, that, in so essential a point, they will swerve
from

from the strict line of justice. Because a gentleman enjoys a precarious place, from which he saves a few hundreds a year, must I therefore suppose, that he will attend to this paltry consideration, when his much larger paternal possessions, and the interest of his whole posterity are consequentially at stake? If I am mistaken; if we are really bound down in a chain, so rivetted with gold that nothing will undo it; if we must sit still with our arms folded, till our enemies have drawn their nets quite round us; adieu all courage, all hope, all endeavour: let us prepare ourselves for the catastrophe: let us shut ourselves up in our own houses to weep over our children, since nothing can avert the ruin that so evidently threatens us.

F I N I S.

